



California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA)

Quarterly Newsletter
Summer 2014

*Providing low-cost financial
assistance to public hospitals
and private, nonprofit health
care providers in California*

CHFFA News

Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program (IMHWGP) Update:

CHFFA is currently processing 21 approved grants in the first funding round for its newest grant program established by the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013. These grants potentially serve 28 counties throughout California. The second funding round began July 14, 2014, and CHFFA is now accepting applications until September 15, 2014. Please sign up for automatic notifications if you would like to be apprised of developments with this program at our [website](#).

Senate Select Committee on Mental Health:

Senator John Beall and members of the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health had an informational hearing about the outcomes of California's recent investments in behavioral health programs on July 2, 2014 at the State Capitol. Barbara Liebert was invited to testify on the status and updates on the implementation of SB 82—The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013, which resulted in a competitive grant program that CHFFA has been administering. Darrel Steinberg vocalized his appreciation of the program and its importance and mentioned that CHFFA staff did an outstanding job with the development and implementation of the program thus far.

California Health Access Model Program (CHAMP) Update:

At the January 30, 2014 meeting, CHFFA approved a demonstration project grant for the San Francisco Health Plan ("SFHP") for up to \$1,500,000. An initial disbursement of 25% of the awarded grant amount was forwarded to SFHP in July 2014 to initiate the approved project. Moreover, the first quarterly status report was submitted to CHFFA on August 1, 2014 and describes the pre grant activities conducted April 1 June 30th 2014. More information about the CHAMP demonstration project is available on our [CHAMP webpage](#).

CHFFA Team Update:

Please join us in bidding farewell to Barbara Liebert who has been assigned as the new Deputy Controller for State Controller John Chiang to replace Ruth Holton Hodson who recently retired after serving in that capacity for six and a half years. Please also welcome Ronald Washington who has been assigned as the new Executive Director.

CHFFA Board Members



Bill Lockyer
State Treasurer
and Chair



John Chiang
State Controller



Michael Cohen
Director of
Finance



Judith Frank



Jay Hansen



Ann Madden Rice



**Oscar Sablan,
M.D.**



Jack Buckhorn



Pedro Reyes

Featured CHFFA Board Member Ruth Holton-Hodson

Ms. Ruth Holton-Hodson is Controller John Chiang's delegate to the CHFFA board and has served in that capacity for six and a half years. It is her first state job. Previously, she was the Director of Public Policy for the California Wellness Foundation ("Foundation") where her grants portfolio included community clinics and community clinic consortia around the state. Before the Foundation, she was the Executive Director of CA Common Cause where she worked on campaign finance reform and ethics. She started her healthcare career as a lobbyist for the CA Children's Lobby. She is a graduate of George Washington University in Washington D.C., where she majored in Political Science and minored in French, and she has a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Chicago. She has vast experience and knowledge on community clinics and on issues of providing healthcare in low-income communities. "It's exciting to be able to continue my grantmaking work at CHFFA," says Ms. Holton-Hodson. "I even approved grants at CHFFA for some of my former grantees at the Foundation who were surprised to see me." She enjoys working at CHFFA because of its mission supporting safety net hospitals and health systems. She loves painting and spending time outdoors, hiking, and gardening. Her father was in the Foreign Service at the U.S. State Department, so she has lived in several foreign countries including New Zealand, Germany, Japan, South Africa and Wales. She has visited Machu Picchu in Peru and the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador as well. She will retire at the end of July and plans to take art classes, travel, and volunteer in Belize for three weeks at a wildlife conservation center. Her bright future may include more travel and a return to the nonprofit world where she might renew her focus on issues of social justice.

CHFFA Recent Financings

Providence Health System—Southern California (“PHS”) was recently approved by the board for \$308 million in tax exempt bonds to refund all or a portion of the outstanding CHFFA/ Providence Health & Services Series 2008C Fixed Rate Bonds. PHS was also recently approved for \$150 million in tax exempt bonds to refinance a portion of the taxable commercial paper that was used to finance the acquisition of Saint John’s Health Center. This bond issue will secure permanent financing for the acquisition of the facility. *Paul Dulai and Brock Lewis.*

California Family Life Center (“CFLC”) was recently approved by the board for a HELP II Loan in the amount of \$213,750 to purchase an existing building currently leased by CFLC located in Hemet CA. The property is currently licensed as a group home. According to CFLC’s management, the purchase will translate into an estimated savings of approximately \$7,680 per year. *Michael Tang*

Health Care News Summary

*Summary prepared by Bianca Smith
Orange County Register Mark Muckenfuss
July 16, 2014*

Loma Linda plans ‘health care mecca’

The Santa Clara Valley Loma Linda University Health officials said they are moving forward with plans to expand a medical center on its main campus by constructing two new facilities using a \$100 million donation. The donation was made to the group’s philanthropic campaign, which seeks to raise a total of \$350 million for the expansion. The campaign is part of what Loma Linda is calling its Vision 2020 which will include a new clinic, a research center and a wholeness institute. Rather than retrofitting the existing 47 year old complex for seismic compliance, officials have decided to construct new buildings. The new adult tower will have 276 beds, 96 of which will be for intensive care. The children’s tower will have 100 beds, combining with the existing children’s hospital for a total of 359. Of those, 100 will be for neonatal intensive care, making it one of the largest neonatal intensive care units in the country. Construction on the new hospital is expected to begin at the end of 2015.

Barbara Liebert Presenting at the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health



Featured CHFFA Employee

Ronald Washington

Ronald Washington was recently appointed as the Executive Director for CHFFA in addition to being the acting Executive Director (ED) for the CA Educational Facilities Authority. Previously, he was CHFFA’s Deputy ED for approximately three years. He holds a B.S. degree in Business Economics from UC Riverside and a Master’s degree in Education from Claremont Graduate School. He previously worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and the Public Finance Division within the State Treasurer’s Office. He was also a high school Math teacher for three years. Ronald is pleased and happy to work with CHFFA’s staff. He is very appreciative of the really good staff at CHFFA. He stated that through his work for CHFFA he gets the opportunity to see the individuals who are impacted by staff’s work, which is unique and satisfying. Ronald was in the Navy for four years and traveled to many places including: Japan, Philippines, Guam, Australia, Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore. At one time, he was fluent in five languages at one time. He likes to volunteer for various activities and entities, some of which include coaching his daughter’s basketball team, leading various men’s groups, leading activities for his church, and tutoring high school students. He enjoys all sports activities especially racquetball, hiking, and bike riding. He also considers himself as a “readaholic” because he is often in the middle of reading two books at a time. He loves animals and is well educated on all the various breeds and species and hopes to someday work with animals. He loves spending quality time with his wife and two daughters and hopes to visit the Holy Land one day.

Stem Cell News Summary

*Science Daily— Summary prepared by Brock Lewis
July 18, 2014*

‘Support’ cells in brain play important role in Down syndrome

Researchers from UC Davis School of Medicine and Shriners Hospitals for Children Northern California have identified a group of cells in the brain that play an important role in the abnormal neuron development in Down syndrome. After developing a new model for studying the syndrome using patient derived stem cells, the scientists also found that applying an inexpensive antibiotic to the cells appears to correct many abnormalities in the interaction between the cells and developing neurons. This new model is more realistic than traditional animal models because it is derived from a patient’s own cells.

California Health Facilities Financing Authority

915 Capitol Mall, Room 590
Sacramento, CA 95814

916.653.2799 ph

916.654.5362 fax

www.treasurer.ca.gov/CHFFA

chffa@treasurer.ca.gov